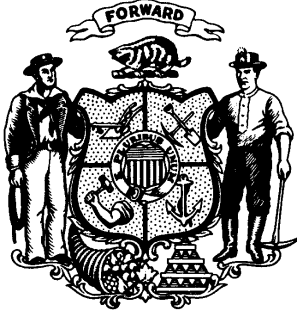


State of Wisconsin



1997 Assembly Bill 11

Date of enactment: **December 19, 1997**

Date of publication*: **January 8, 1998**

1997 WISCONSIN ACT 51

AN ACT to amend 109.07 (1m); and to create 601.41 (7) of the statutes; relating to: requiring the office of the commissioner of insurance to provide information and technical assistance to employees and former employees who lose health care coverage.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 109.07 (1m) of the statutes is amended to read:

109.07 (1m) Subject to sub. (5) or (6), an employer who has decided upon a business closing or mass layoff in this state shall promptly notify the subunit of the department that administers s. 106.15, any affected employee, any collective bargaining representative of any affected employee, and the highest official of any municipality in which the affected employment site is located, in writing of such action no later than 60 days prior to the date that the business closing or mass layoff takes place. The employer shall provide in writing all information concerning its payroll, affected employees and the wages and other remuneration owed to such employees as the department may require. The department may in addition require the employer to submit a plan setting forth the manner in which final payment in full shall be made to affected employees. The department shall promptly provide a copy of the notice required under this subsection to the department of commerce and to the of-

ice of the commissioner of insurance and shall cooperate with the department of commerce in the performance of its responsibilities under s. 560.15 and with the office of the commissioner of insurance in the performance of its responsibilities under s. 601.41 (7). This subsection does not apply to a business closing or mass layoff that is caused by a strike or lockout.

SECTION 2. 601.41 (7) of the statutes is created to read:

601.41 (7) INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYEES AND FORMER EMPLOYEES WHO LOSE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE. The commissioner shall provide to employees and former employees who lose health care coverage under a group health insurance plan or self-insured health plan information and technical assistance regarding all of the following:

(a) Any rights that the individuals may have under state or federal laws affecting health benefit plans, including laws that relate to portability, continuation coverage, as defined in s. 252.16 (1) (a), or conversion coverage under s. 632.897.

(b) The availability of individual health benefit plans in the area in which the individual resides.

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 1995-96: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].